

# TERMINOLOGY

## PLANTS

Last Revised on 12/11/2002

**Artificial Habitat:** These are terrestrial or aquatic landscapes, which are unnaturally managed or altered by humans or animals on a routine basis whereas natural succession is interrupted or precluded.

**Biota:** Is a species of plant or animal occurring in any type of environment.

**Biologic Potential:** This refers to physiological attributes of individual species that allow them, under average conditions, to become naturalized, readily reproduce and spread across the landscape. This includes, but is not limited to the following: adaptable to a variety of temperature regimes; seeds that are easily dispersed by wind, water or animals; seeds or propagules easily and readily reproduce; growth development early in the spring prior to native species; rapid growth rate; and/or physiological changes, biochemical or cellular, which enables it to readily adapt to changes in its environment.

**Indigenous Species:** A species that occurs natively in a defined geographic area. Indigenous species often have a pre-colonial presence (pre 1500) or have arrived in the region more recently without the aid of human intervention. It is necessary to define geographic boundaries before a species can be designated as indigenous or native to the given region. Synonymous with native species.

**Intensively Managed Habitats:** Intensively managed habitats (IMH) are habitats or land systems where management efforts and investments of time, money and work are relatively high. Examples of IMHs are manicured lawns, landscaped grounds, gardens, roadsides or agricultural lands for crops or livestock.

**Invasive Species:** A naturalized, non-native plant taxon (species, subspecies, variety, form or cultivars) that invades native plant communities and proliferates, out-competes native species, disrupts ecological processes by threatening imperiled species and decreasing biological diversity. In addition, invasive species can also include plants, insects or fungi that cause economic harm to agricultural and forests crops or pose a serious health hazard.

**Immediate Danger:** Any plant species that has been determined to be invasive or problematic in those New England states which occur within USDA Hardiness Zones 3-6 is considered to be an immediate danger to the health and wellbeing of New Hampshire's natural environment, agricultural and/or forest crop resources.

**Minimally Managed Habitats:** Minimally managed habitats (MMH) are habitats where management efforts and investments of time, money and work are relatively low or non-existent. MMHs may have been intensively managed for anthropogenic reasons at one time in their history. In some instances, management may be more intense but management is done for conservation purposes and is primarily aimed at preserving elements of biological diversity such as imperiled species or critical natural communities. MMHs are similar to "natural areas" but the distinction is made in order to remove bias, misconceptions or ambiguities that surround the term "natural area".

**Native plant:** A plant species that can be shown to have been present in the region for at least 100 years and for which there is no evidence that it is a non-indigenous plant.

**Naturalized Species:** A taxon that occurs without the aid and benefits of cultivation in an area where it is considered nonindigenous. Further, it implies 3 biological points: it freely and regularly reproduces in the wild, sexually or asexually; it spreads or multiplies to some degree; and populations or occurrences persist over time.

**Negatively Affect:** A plant's ability over time to cause adverse impacts to the surrounding natural environment, native species, soil condition, agricultural or forest crops. This also includes any invasive species that has been shown to cause human and/or animal health problems.

**Nonindigenous Species:** A species that is not native or naturally occurring (based on its biology, phylogeny, distribution and current knowledge about the species) within a defined geographic area. It is necessary to define geographic boundaries before a species can be designated as nonindigenous in New England. Synonymous with non-native species.

**Spatial Gaps:** Spatial gaps are units of landscape that may be similar enough that individuals of a species could exist there but, for any of a myriad of reasons, do not. Likewise, spatial gaps may also be units of dissimilar landscapes or habitats. Species that can cross spatial gaps have the ability to disperse away from existing occurrences. Birds, wind or water may aid dispersal. The concept of crossing spatial gaps is used to distinguish those species, which can disperse over these discontinuities and become established elsewhere from species that spread across a habitat only by continual, uninterrupted growth. Examples of species that can disperse over spatial gaps are Black Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Examples of those species which spread over large areas but are not capable of dispersal over spatial gaps are Vinca (*Vinca minor*), Orange Day Lily (*Hermerocallis fulva*) or in New England, English Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

**Widespread:** A widespread species occurs widely throughout the defined area and equally likely to be found in any subdivision or region of the entire area.

## INSECTS

**Biologic Potential:** The ability of an insect to disperse, adapt, and establish itself in new environments.

**Widespread Dispersion:** Refers to the insect's mode of spread. For example it's ability to fly or requirement of other vectors for dispersal.

**Rapid Establishment:** Refers to fecundity, length of life cycle and predation factors.

**Host Availability:** Means both quantity and suitability for establishment or colonization.

**Non-native:** An insect of foreign origin that has been introduced into an ecosystem where historically it has not been known to occur.

**Commercial Agriculture:** Includes farming, Christmas trees, nursery and greenhouse production.

**Negative Affects:** Include the abiotic effects that might result from infestation, e.g. increased erosion, increased fire hazard, change in soil composition; the biotic effects on other species that might occur, e.g. loss of food sources, loss of nesting sites, loss of cover resulting in increased predation; the potential for reduction in sustainability; and the potential for reduction in biodiversity. Negative affects also include the direct and indirect economic effects of infestation; the type of damage caused by the organism to the living tree or to any harvested products; the impacts on all affected industries, including forestry, nursery trades, recreation etc.; the increased costs of production that may reasonably be anticipated as a result of infestation by the pest, including the costs of replacement, control, eradication, monitoring; the loss of revenue that is anticipated due to reduced marketability or the loss of international/domestic markets; loss of aesthetic value affecting recreation industries etc.

**Non-native:** Refers to an insect of foreign origin that has been introduced into an ecosystem where historically it has not been known to occur.